

The Church That Is In New York

Lenten Season Dawns on War-Racked World

Never Have the People Been More in Need of or
More Ready to Heed This Fact—Untold Force
Seen in Nation's Reconciliation.

By CHARLES W. WELCH.

"The Church that is in New York," irrespective of denominational boundaries, has returned to the annual commemoration of the forty days' fast of Moses, Elijah and the Christ.

At first the keeping of the fast was strictly enjoined and observed, but with the passing of the centuries its observance has become only nominal, forty days as a period of ecclesiastical practicality all the other denominations and individual reconnection to the

cause of Him whose life, fasting, death and resurrection are emphasized during this season.

The history of the Church did the Lenten season come when it is more needed than if it is this year. No people were ever more ready for its originally intended purpose than the people who are living throughout the world to-day.

A world-wide application of the lessons which will be taught throughout the Christian Church is essential during this forty days that the spiritual reactions produced by the present world situation may be turned to some account in the progress of the race toward its intended goal.

The nation-wide preaching mission which is being inaugurated by the Protestant Episcopal Church, the national evangelistic movement of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the denominational and interdenominational revival campaigns, the efforts of the various church councils and committees, will naturally receive a ter-

rible impetus as the people throughout our country are brought within the radius of this forty days' concerted reconnection and its consequent ser-

ciousness of purpose.

This is the Church's opportunity.

Never were men and women of every station in life more ready to think seriously regarding religious questions than they are to-day. Never were the men of New York City more ready to enter seriously and respectfully upon the discussions regarding the content of the religion of the day.

What makes this an altogether attractive opportunity is this that "the Church is in New York to prove its worthlessness!" What a splendid privilege is this for the people of this city to put into practice their ever recurring resolution to prove their sincerity and interest in things which are not altogether ephemeral!

If the Church that is in New York and all the people of the city are ever to meet in the fulfilling of their great task, there must be a standing of each concerning the other's ministry.

The Tribune's sustained campaign in the interest of church attendance will continue to be an incentive with many, but it is anxiously hoped by the Church that is in New York and The Tribune that the present Lenten season will find the individual of every denomination crowded at every service and that a deepening of the spiritual and religious life of the city will be enhanced to an immeasurable degree thereby.

We Must Get Close to God.

That the present celebration of this period of the Church year should be more seriously undertaken is voiced by the current issue of "The Churchman," which says, editorially: "The season of Lent comes to the Church this year with more than its usual appeal. We are living in times of exceptional stress and anxiety. Hearts everywhere are saddened and distressed, and increasing weights of affliction and upon suffering multitudes of Europe. Our relation as a nation to the intricate problems arising from that appalling conflict and the consciousness of the responsibilities we may at any moment be asked to assume for their solution is a further sobering influence. Moreover, the state of affairs existing within the Church however, make it even more determined to strive and to sacrifice all that most of us care to give all who love their Church and long to see it rise with solid ranks to the epochal demands now laid upon it."

These are considerations which combine to make the Lenten privileges of special and peculiar value. There is wide appreciation of the need of getting close to God in order to think things out and to relate one's self to him with something of the grace and guidance that is afforded by the cultivation of the presence of the Holy Spirit. Here, preeminently, is the call of this Lenten season to think over with God the great and soul-testing problems with which we are to-day confronted. And such thinking will be something more than any perfidious rearrangement of our projects, but a deep searching of the heart, with the definite view of ascertaining, first of all, how far we individually may be accountable for the present distress in the world and within the Church, and then by what measures of self-conciliation and self-abnegation we individually can cooperate for the restoration of that godly order which will enable God's cause to go forward."

SERMON TOPICS TO-MORROW.

Baptist.—"The Truth Revealed in a Shipwreck, and the Confidence Born of a Storm, Whom Did Paul Meet on the Deck of the Ship?" Dr. F. W. Sears, 8 P.M.

Cath.—"The Mystery of Iniquity, or, The Only Person on Earth to Day Who Killed an Antichrist." The Rev. J. H. D. P. Pastor, 8 P.M.

Methodist.—"The Sabbath of the Old Testament." Dr. H. L. Haldeman, 8 P.M.

Non-Cath.—"The Second Beast of Revelation is the Antichrist."

Episc.—"The New Thought Church."

Pres.—"The Ascension." Dr. Percy Stickney Rector, 8 P.M.

Anglican.—"The Beloved Disciple." Dr. Ford C. Ottman, 8 P.M.

Reformed.—"The Essential Preparedness." Dr. P. M. Evansong, 8 P.M.

Episc.—"The Heart of Wetona." Mrs. Maude Adams, 8 P.M.

Unit.—"The Melody of Youth." Elsie Ferguson, 8 P.M.

Protestant.—"The Grafting of Spiritual Seed." Dr. Harold Patterson, 8 P.M.

Unitarian.—"The Boomerang." David Hochstein, 8 P.M.

Unitarian.—"The Hippodrome." Mme. Olive Fremstad, 8 P.M.

Unitarian.—"The Last Supper." Harold Bauer, 8 P.M.

Unitarian.—"The Last Matinee." Walter Damrosch, 8 P.M.

Unitarian.—"The Last Show." Elsie Ferguson, 8 P.M.

Unitarian.—"The Last Symphony." Ernest Schelling, 8 P.M.

Unitarian.—"The Last Week." Maxine Elliott, 8 P.M.

Unitarian.—"The Last Week Testimony." William Winter, 8 P.M.

Unit